



PHOTOVOLTAIC INSPECTION PROCEDURES

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5600

Promoting the Wise Use of Land • Helping to Build Great Communities

Notice to Photovoltaic System Installers: Revised Inspection Procedures

Several new models of PV inverters are available with built in AC and DC disconnects. Some also have provisions for PV source circuit combiners with fuses. In order to inspect these components access covers or panels may have to be removed from the inverter. Due to the fact that PV modules generate voltage and current whenever exposed to sun light these PV systems may require inspection while energized. The county building inspectors have been instructed not to remove covers or access panels from inverters unless there are separate AC and DC disconnects adjacent to the inverter. There are several reasons for this policy, worker safety being first and foremost and the potential for damage to the equipment.

To minimize any potential delays in the inspection process we have established procedures that will require the PV contractor to be present during the inspections to make the equipment accessible for inspection. This will require some coordination between the inspector and the contractor. The following procedures should help in that regard:

1. When ready for inspection, the contractor calls the inspection request number (788-2076) one day in advance to schedule the inspection
2. On the day of the inspection, the contractor must call the area supervising inspector between 7:00 & 7:30 A.M. to coordinate the time of the inspection.
3. The supervising inspector will transfer the call to the inspector who has been assigned to do the inspection in order to establish an approximate inspection time.
 - For projects located in the North County contact Bob Rudio at 461-6200 to find out which inspector has been assigned that job.
 - For South County projects including Cayucos and Cambria contact Matt Varvel at 781-1536 to find out which inspector has been assigned that job.

Also, as a reminder, for roof mounted arrays, safe access to the roof must be provided for the inspector. Safe access is defined as an OSHA approved ladder that is properly secured and extends at least three feet above the roof surface where the ladder is attached.

Please Note:

1. Trench inspections are required after the conduit is installed and prior to backfill.
2. A footing inspection for all ground mounted arrays is required prior to concrete placement.

If you have any questions or comments regarding these policies please contact Jim Casper, Assistant Building Official at (805) 781-5629, or e-mail at jcasper@co.slo.ca.us.